

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 580

BY REPRESENTATIVE PATRICIA SMITH

EDUCATION/SPECIAL: Authorizes certain special schools to share services and functions under certain conditions

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:1945(A) and (B), relative to special schools for students with  
3 exceptionalities; to provide for a designation for certain special schools under the  
4 jurisdiction of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; to authorize  
5 such schools to share services and functions under certain conditions; to allow for  
6 the enrollment in such schools of children with orthopedic impairments under certain  
7 circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:1945(A) and (B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
10 follows:

11 §1945. Special schools and school districts

12 A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall have  
13 jurisdiction and exercise supervision and control over the state's special schools for  
14 the blind, deaf, and orthopedically impaired. The Louisiana School for the Deaf, the  
15 Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired, and the Louisiana Special Education  
16 ~~Center~~ Center, hereinafter in this Section referred to as Board Special Schools, are  
17 residential schools established to provide such academic, vocational, and other  
18 related services as may be required.

19 B.(1) ~~The Louisiana School for the Deaf and the Louisiana School for the~~  
20 ~~Visually Impaired~~ Board Special Schools shall establish an annual enrollment

1 deadline for admission to each of the respective schools. After a school's deadline,  
2 any other children with ~~hearing or visual~~ hearing, visual, or orthopedic impairments  
3 may enroll at the request of their parents, guardians, appointed custodians, or other  
4 legal surrogates if the school, as applicable, determines that there are sufficient  
5 resources to meet the needs of these children as well as the needs of the children  
6 enrolled prior to the enrollment deadline.

7 (2) The Board Special Schools may share services and functions, including  
8 but not limited to fiscal, human resources, maintenance, security, physical plant,  
9 food, transportation, admissions, diagnostics, and health services, to the extent that  
10 sharing such services and functions is not in conflict with federal laws and rules  
11 applicable to the education of students with exceptionalities.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Patricia Smith

HB No. 580

**Abstract:** Designates the La. School for the Deaf, the La. School for the Visually Impaired, and the La. Special Education Center as "Board Special Schools" (under the jurisdiction of BESE); authorizes such schools to share services and functions under certain conditions; and allows for the enrollment in such schools of children with orthopedic impairments.

Present law provides that State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) shall have jurisdiction and control over the state's special schools for the blind, deaf, and orthopedically impaired. Provides that the La. School for the Deaf, the La. School for the Visually Impaired, and the La. Special Education Center are residential schools established to provide academic, vocational, and other related services as may be required.

Proposed law retains present law and designates the three schools as "Board Special Schools".

Present law requires the La. School for the Deaf and the La. School for the Visually Impaired to establish an annual enrollment deadline for student admissions. Provides that after a school's deadline, any other children with hearing or visual impairments may enroll at the request of their parents, guardians, appointed custodians, or other legal surrogates if the school has sufficient resources to meet the needs of such children as well as the needs of the children enrolled prior to the deadline.

Proposed law retains present law but refers to the "Board Special Schools", making it applicable to the La. Special Education Center and adds that children with orthopedic impairments also may be enrolled after a school's deadline as provided in present law.

Proposed law further authorizes such schools to share services and functions, including but not limited to fiscal, human resources, maintenance, security, physical plant, food, transportation, admissions, diagnostics, and health services, to the extent that sharing such services and functions does not conflict with applicable federal laws and rules.

(Amends R.S. 17:1945(A) and (B))